

Appl. No. 10/648,579
Reply to Office Action of March 17, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Table 2 on page 50 of the specification is amended herein to correct a typographical error.

Claim 1 is amended as follows:

(i) to add "a photopolymerizable monomer" as a component. This is supported by Ink Composition Sets 2-5 of the present invention (see Tables 2-5 of the present specification). They all include "a photopolymerizable monomer" as an element of the ink.

(ii) to make clear the definition of "a substituent" for $R_1 - R_{13}$. This is supported by the description of page 10, lines 1-12. A halogenated alkyl group is supported by the Exemplified compound Nos. 1-7 in page 12 and Nos. 8-17 in page 13 of the present specification.

Claims 2 and 3 are amended to be consistent with the amendment of claim 1.

Claim 7 is amended so as to more particularly claim the present invention.

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Claim 12 is newly submitted. Claim 12 is supported by the description of page 10, lines 1 - 12, and by the Exemplified compound Nos. 1 - 7 in page 12 and Nos. 8 -17 in page 13 of the present specification.

Rejections of claims

The Examiner rejects the present claims as non-enabled and noted an absence of a photopolymerizable monomer. To avoid this rejection, claim 1 is amended to include "a photopolymerizable monomer."

The Examiner's rejection to the label "General" as indefinite does not take into account that the claim defines the term "General Formula" by reference to a specific formula. However, to advance the prosecution, the term is deleted.

Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohkawa et al. (US 6,368,769).

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa et al.

There are no art-related rejections of claim 6.

One of the features which distinguishes the present claims from Ohkawa is the maximum bond distance between S and C of the photo-acid generating agent.

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The maximum bond distance of S-C in the amended claim 1 is
0.1688 - 0.1750 nm.

It is stated in page 11, lines 13-16 of the present specification as follows:

"When the aforesaid bond distance is at most 0.1686 nm, sufficient curing is not achieved. On the other hand, when it exceeds 0.1750 nm, the resulting compound bond tends to be easily broken, resulting in problems of storage stability."

In order to evidence that the present claims are different from Ohkawa, the compounds disclosed in Ohkawa were calculated by the inventor of the present application.

It was found that all of the compounds described in Examples of Ohkawa are calculated to have much smaller S-C distance than the claimed values. The calculated values are shown in the enclosed DECLARATION. Thus, Ohkawa does not anticipate the claims because it lacks an important feature.

The DECLARATION also demonstrates that the compounds having a shorter S-C bond distance fail to exhibit the superior effects of the present invention. Thus, the invention as claimed is unexpectedly superior to the art. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is therefore requested.

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Rejection of Specification

This is avoided by amendment to the claims as noted above, to add a polymerizable monomer component.

The provisional double patenting rejection is noted and will be dealt with in the appropriate application if it remains.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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Enc. Executed DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132 of
Toshiyuki TAKABAYASHI dated June 8, 2005